

University of Illinois Extension Unit #9 – Grundy, Kankakee & Will Counties Extension Council Meeting

Agenda September 27, 2022, Meeting at 6:30 pm (Will Office)

- I. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Those in attendance were Michele Crawford, Lin Scharnhorst, Johari Cole, Mark Hodak, Sally Skoff, Herb Brooks Jr., Dale Bowman, and Victoria Lundh.
- II. Additions to Agenda
 - a. The agenda was reviewed and a discussion on vacant positions were added.
- III. Minutes of June
 - a. The minutes from June were reviewed. A motion was Herb Brooks and seconded by Dale Bowman provided the second. The motion passed.
- IV. Financial Update
 - a. Extension Fiscal Update
 - i. Michele provided the financial report she also provided an update from the recent educators meeting and state funding.
 - ii. Audits have been completed for Kankakee and Will counties. Grundy's audit has been scheduled.
 - iii. The council asked to see the income statement as part of the finance report in the future.
- V. Local Program Reports – Educators
 - a. Sally Skoff presented updates from Master Gardeners
 - i. There was a brief discussion on the Master Gardener Conference held September 8 & 9 at the Tinley Park Convention Center. This was the first conference held in person since COVID. There were 287 attendees. Will County Master Gardener Suzanne Campbell received the State Outstanding Master Gardener Award. The Union School Master Gardener Greenhouse Project received the State Team Work Award.
 - b. Michele presented updates from the educators.
 - i. Master Gardener/Master Naturalist
 1. Summer Program Successes: 5 week/10 session Summer Youth Program Kids n Nature serving 6 underserved schools. 37 youth attended all 10 sessions; Fall 2022 program underway with 150 youth 8 weeks
 2. Serving the underserved: Summer long programs for adults with disabilities and Seniors living in congregate housing both programs experiencing continued success and growth
 - ii. 4H Educator
 1. Hike the A.T. (Appalachian Trail) Outdoor Skills I Program
 - a. Join us as we embark on a 2,190+ mile 'virtual' hike as high as 6,000 feet through forests and mountains along the Appalachian Trail (AT) as it meanders through 14 states from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine! Through local programs, hikes, and challenges September – December 2022, youth will engage in activities focused on outdoor hiking/backpacking skills, conservation, civic participation, and healthy lifestyles and learn the skills & knowledge to complete a real-life AT hike in the future. As we hike, we will track our progress along the AT! See how far we can go by December! During each in person program, we will go on virtual tours of the AT,

learn about and practice hiking/camping/outdoor skills such as navigation, fire starting, plant & animal id, geography, fire starting, shelter building, first aid and safety, and so much more. Throughout the journey, youth will be rewarded for their efforts with a variety of recognition opportunities, outdoor supplies, and more.

b. Locations

- i. Grundy County Extension Office, 4004 N Division St, Morris, IL (Grundy County)
- ii. Fossil Ridge Library, 386 W Kennedy Rd, Braidwood, IL 60408 (Will County)
- iii. Kankakee County, see the exact [Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve locations](#) below

c. Number of youths – 46 youth with Teen Leaders

2. Photography Workshop - Fall 2022

- a. Join us as we learn the tips & tricks to create beautiful photographs using cell phones and digital SLR cameras. This program is more in depth than those offered 2019-2021. We will email the lessons prior to each program so participants can review what we'll cover each date. Please be sure to review them prior to the program. This will enable us to cover more topics and more in depth at each meeting. We will be at each program 15 minutes early to help participants with topics they need additional support with. For each program, we will view sample images and discuss what we like and don't like about them as they relate to the current concept. Then, participants will create a couple images based on what was covered. Once complete, the instructor will review the image, provide feedback, and ask the participant to reshoot with the feedback in mind. Then, we'll move on to the next concept until we run out of time.

b. Locations

- i. Grundy County Extension Office, 4004 N Division St, Morris, IL (Grundy County)
- ii. Fossil Ridge Library, 386 W Kennedy Rd, Braidwood, IL 60408 (Will County)

c. Number of youth -21 youth with Teen Leaders

c. Council Feedback and Support

- i. Maps of where programs are happening would be helpful to see where opportunities exist.
- ii. Council members shared their thoughts on the work Extension is doing and the areas where improvement is needed. Concerns included the community involvement and the need to increase staffing. The council acknowledged the improvements in the areas of promotion and social media. Presentations in front of the County Board are important. How can we help promote the work extension is doing.

VI. Business

a. Unit Staffing Update

i. Current openings:

1. Consumer Education shared position with Kendell, Kane, and DuPage.

2. County Director position is also still open. The posting closes September 30th.
 - ii. Positions still vacant include Local Foods Small Farms, part-time Office Support for Grundy, and 4H Metro Educator.
 - iii. Olivia has been hired as full-time support in Kankakee. Dominique Hobbs has been hired as SNAP Ed Educator. Durriyyah Kemp has been hired as the Assistant Director (formally called the Regional Director).
 - iv. Michele provided an update on covid and when staff came back to fully to the office.
- b. New Council Members
 - i. Council members were asked to submit short bios to have a list of connections.
- c. Foundation Reports
 - i. Will County Foundation will host their fundraiser at the Will County Fairgrounds. The event will be held on February 18th.
 - ii. Grundy County's fundraiser will be held on April 1st.
- VII. Extension State Advisory Council (ESAC) Report
 - a. The region is looking for 2 new representatives to serve on ESAC.
- VIII. Meeting Dates:
 - a. The next meeting will be held January 24th.
- IX. Those interested in attending or speaking to the Council must contact Michele Crawford (mcrawfrd@illinois.edu) 24 hours prior to the meeting for details

Lisa made a motion to adjourn, Sally provided the second.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm



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